03050109-020

(South Saluda River)

General Description

Watershed 03050109-020 is located in Pickens and Greenville Counties and consists primarily of the *South Saluda River* and its tributaries. The watershed occupies 77,668 acres of the Blue Ridge region of South Carolina. The predominant soil types consist of an association of the Ashe-Hayesville series. The erodibility of the soil (K) averages 0.22; the slope of the terrain averages 25%, with a range of 2-80%. Land use/land cover in the watershed includes: 0.67% urban land, 2.37% agricultural land, 0.25% scrub/shrub land, 0.36% barren land, 95.35% forested land, and 1.00% water.

The South Saluda River flows through Table Rock Reservoir and is joined by several tributaries before merging downstream with the North Saluda River. The headwaters of the South Saluda River accepts drainage from Laurel Creek (Big Spring Creek, Rock Laurel Branch) and Flatrock Creek before entering Table Rock Reservoir. Slicking Creek (Little Table Rock Creek, Chestnut Cove) and Galloway Branch flow directly into the reservoir. The South Saluda River and its tributaries, from the headwaters through and including Table Rock Reservoir, are classified ORW. Matthews Creek (Julian Creek) enters the South Saluda River below the reservoir followed by West Fork (Wattacoo Creek, Robinson Branch), the Oolenoy River watershed (03050109-030), and Spain Creek. Julian Creek and Matthews Creek from their headwaters to the end of State land in the Mountain Bridge area are classified ORW. The South Saluda River is classified TPGT from the Table Rock Reservoir dam to the crossing of SC Hwy 8.

The most predominant tributary to the South Saluda River is the Middle Saluda River, which originates in Caesars Head State Park and accepts drainage from Coldspring Branch, Rock Branch, Buck Hollow, and Head Foremost Creek. Gap Creek (Falls Creek, Trammell Lake, Friddle Lake, Bluff Branch, Tankersly Branch, Peters Branch, Cherry Branch) enters the Middle Saluda River next followed by Oil Camp Creek, Jane Branch, Devils Fork Creek, Cox Creek (Grissom Branch), Mill Creek, Wolf Creek, and Spout Spring Branch. Coldspring Branch and the Middle Saluda River, from their headwaters to the end of State land, are classified ORW. Oil Camp Creek is classified ORW from its headwaters to the end of State land, and the remainder of the stream is classified TN. All of Head Foremost Creek is classified ORW, and Falls Creek is ORW from its headwaters to Lake Trammell. Lake Trammell and the remainder of Falls Creek are classified TN. The entire reach of Gap Creek, together with Rock Branch, and Buck Hollow are classified TN, and the Middle Saluda River is classified TN from the end of State land to Oil Camp Creek.

Peters Creek and Carpenter Creek flow into the South Saluda River at the base of the watershed. There are a total of 164.9 stream miles in this watershed, and with the exception of the ORW, TN, and TGPT streams mentioned above, the remaining streams are classified FW. Other natural resource areas in this watershed including Table Rock State Park, Caesars Head State Park, and Jones Gap State Park. A five-mile segment of the Middle Saluda River is protected under the South Carolina Scenic Rivers Program. Table Rock Reservoir is used for municipal purposes only by the Greenville Water Commission.

Water Quality

Station #	Type	Class	Description
S-291	P	ORW	TABLE ROCK RESERVOIR AT WATER INTAKE
S-320	P	FW	SOUTH SALUDA RIVER AT S-39-113 (TABLE ROCK RD)
S-086	W	TN	MATTHEWS CREEK AT S-23-90
S-318	W	FW	SOUTH SALUDA RIVER AT SC 8
S-771	BIO	FW	SOUTH SALUDA RIVER AT SC ROUTE 11
S-087	S	FW	SOUTH SALUDA RIVER AT S-23-101
S-076	BIO	ORW	MIDDLE SALUDA RIVER AT JONES GAP STATE PARK
S-077	W	FW	MIDDLE SALUDA RIVER AT S-23-41

S-317	**W**	**FW**	**OIL CAMP CREEK AT S-23-097**
S-252	**S**	**FW**	**M.SALUDA RIVER AT SC 288, 2.3 MI WSW SLATER**
S-299	**W**	**FW**	**SOUTH SALUDA RIVER AT SC 186**

South Saluda River **- There are four monitoring sites along the South Saluda River, which was Class B until April, 1992. At the upstream site (S-320), aquatic life and recreational uses are fully supported, and a significant decreasing trend in turbidity suggest improving conditions for this parameter. Further downstream (S-771), aquatic life uses are fully supported based on macroinvertebrate community data. Aquatic life uses are also fully supported at the next site downstream (S-087), but there is a significant decreasing trend in pH. A significant increasing trend in dissolved oxygen concentration and significant decreasing trend in five-day biochemical oxygen demand suggest improving conditions for these parameters. Recreational uses are partially supported at this site due to fecal coliform bacteria excursions, compounded by a significant increasing trend in fecal coliform bacteria concentration. Aquatic life uses are again fully supported at the furthest downstream site (S-299), but recreational uses are partially supported due to fecal coliform bacteria excursions.**

Table Rock Reservoir (S-291) **- Aquatic life uses are fully supported, but there is a significant decreasing trend in dissolved oxygen concentration, and a significant increasing trend in pH. Significant decreasing trends in five-day biochemical oxygen demand, total phosphorus concentration, total nitrogen concentration, and turbidity suggest improving conditions for these parameters. Recreational uses are fully supported and a significant decreasing trend in fecal coliform bacteria concentration suggests improving conditions for this parameter.**

Matthews Creek (S-086) **- Aquatic life uses are fully supported based on macroinvertebrate data.**

Middle Saluda River **- There are three monitoring sites along the Middle Saluda River, which was Class B until April, 1992. At the upstream site (S-076), aquatic life uses are fully supported based on macroinvertebrate community data. Aquatic life and recreational uses are also fully supported at the midstream site (S-077). Aquatic life uses are again fully supported at the downstream site (S-252), and significant decreasing trends in five-day biochemical oxygen demand and total phosphorus concentration suggest improving conditions for these parameters. Recreational uses are partially supported at this site due to fecal coliform bacteria excursions.**

Oil Camp Creek (S-317) **- Aquatic life uses are fully supported based on macroinvertebrate data.**

Permitted Activities

Point Source Contributions

RECEIVING STREAM *FACILITY NAME* *PERMITTED FLOW @ PIPE (MGD)* *COMMENT*	*NPDES#* *TYPE* *LIMITATION*
SOUTH SALUDA RIVER MILLIKEN & CO./GAYLEY PLANT PIPE #: 001 FLOW: 2.15 WQL FOR NH3-N	SC0003191 MAJOR INDUSTRIAL WATER QUALITY
MATTHEWS CREEK ASBURY HILLS UNITED PIPE #: 001 FLOW: 0.015 WQL FOR TRC	SC0029742 MINOR COMMUNITY WATER QUALITY

Nonpoint Source Contributions

Streambank and Silvicultural Demonstration Project

The streambank component of this project demonstrates BMPs related to streambank stabilization and restoration to homeowners and local governments. It is being implemented by the Greenville County Conservation District and is located on a tributary to the Reedy River. The silvicultural demonstration component of the project is located in the watersheds of the North and South Saluda River watersheds. It is demonstrating proper timber harvesting BMPs to forest landowners in the watershed. The project began in August of 1996 and is scheduled to be completed in April of 1999.

Camp Facilities

FACILITY NAME/TYPE *RECEIVING STREAM*	*PERMIT #* *STATUS*
CAMP GREENVILLE/RESIDENT MIDDLE SALUDA RIVER TRIBUTARY	23-305-0109 ACTIVE
PALMETTO BIBLE CAMP/RESIDENT FRIDDLE LAKE	23-305-0115 ACTIVE
CAMP WABAK/RESIDENT GAP CREEK	23-305-0117 ACTIVE
CAMP AWANITA VALLEY GAP CREEK	23-305-0128 ACTIVE
JONES GAP STATE PARK MIDDLE SALUDA RIVER	23-307-0140 ACTIVE

Mining Activities

MINING COMPANY / *MINE NAME* / *COMMENT*	*PERMIT #* / *MINERAL*
HENDRIX SAND COMPANY	**0717-39**
HENDRIX MINE	**SAND**
INSTREAM DREDGING (SOUTH SALUDA RIVER)	
MARIETTA SAND COMPANY	**0640-23**
MARIETTA SAND MINE	**SAND**
INACTIVE DREDGING (SOUTH SALUDA RIVER)	

Water Supply

WATER USER (TYPE) / *WATERBODY*	*REGULATED CAPACITY (MGD)* / *PUMPING CAPACITY (MGD)*
GREENVILLE WATER SYSTEM (M)	**32.0**
TABLE ROCK RESERVOIR	**0.0**

Growth Potential

There is a low potential for development or intensive agriculture in this mountainous watershed, which is predominately protected as park and forest by Caesars Head and Table Rock State Parks. The primary uses of the watershed are recreation and preservation; however, some relatively small clear and selective cut timber harvesting activities occur on the private land holdings. US 276 crosses the watershed, but very little development occurs along the thoroughfare to North Carolina.